

Immigrant Identity Through Stories and Imagery in Australian and NZ Children's Books

Dr. Hai-suk Kim
(University of Queensland)

Date: Thursday, 16 January 2025

Time: 3 pm - 4 pm (NZDT)

Venue: Pat Hanan Room (207-501), UoA

Online available via Zoom: Registration required



Abstract

This study examines how immigrant identity is portrayed in children's books read by Australian and New Zealand children, utilizing qualitative content analysis, thematic analysis, visual image analysis, and Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). It explores how immigrant characters are represented regarding their adaptation, identity struggles, and integration into these societies. Recurring themes such as cultural dislocation, the tension between assimilation and cultural preservation, and the portrayal of immigrants as "others" are identified. CDA helps uncover how these narratives reflect underlying power structures and ideologies. Visual image analysis assesses the depiction of immigrant characters and the interaction between visuals and text. Findings reveal that while some books foster empathy and inclusivity, others marginalize immigrant experiences and reinforce stereotypes. This research underscores the importance of stories, imagery, and discourse in shaping children's perceptions of multiculturalism and diversity, calling for more balanced and inclusive portrayals.



About Dr. Hai-suk Kim

Dr. Hai-suk Kim, a Korean Studies expert at the University of Queensland, completed her PhD there and a postdoctoral fellowship from the Korea Foundation in 2021. With 13 years of university teaching and 6 years of tutoring, her research focuses on colonial Korean studies, text and visual image analysis.

All are warmly welcome to the seminar room. Online joining is also available, but registration is required. Please scan the QR code above. For any inquiries, please contact ch.song@auckland.ac.nz.